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PRESIDENT PROMISES AID FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpt] President Ziaur Rahman on Saturday said that time had come to change the strategy for development and called upon the youths to spread out throughout the length and breadth of the country with a new outlook, reports BSS.

The President asked the young people not to bother for salaried jobs instead take the initiative to do something new.

Inaugurating a three day second national and third council session of Employees Association of Directorate of Technical Education and offices under the Directorate, President Zia said, if we want to cope with other countries of the world, we will have to work hard and stand on our own feet. He observed that in this age of space technology, general education would not serve our purpose and added scientific and technical education was the answer to our problems.

The President said we have to recast the whole education system in line with the needs of the society. He said our march to scientific and technical education should begin now and move steadily. No country could prosper if it does not cultivate science and technology, the President stressed.

President Ziaur Rahman called for dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge throughout the country for the accelerated development of the economy.

He said the country was lagging far behind because of a number of factors and only the way to overcome the lost time "was to be armed with the science and technology for national development" the President added.

The President told the gathering that the Government was planning to establish technical schools in each police station of the country. He said technical expertise was necessary for the development of agriculture and industry.

President Zia asked the technical graduates and youths to move to the villages to form cooperatives and open up work shops. He assured them that generous assistance would be provided from the Government to such enterprises. He said, the social change which we are determined to bring about, must have to be initiated from the villages. To attain that objective we will give all necessary help, he added.

The President said we have located new talents among you who will be able to take up the challenge facing the nation. He said we, as a nation, must have to take risk to face the challenge of national development.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Mr Abdur Rahim Khan and Mr Golam Mostafa, President and General Secretary respectively of the Association.

Earlier the President was presented some souvenirs from the Association. Later he inspected typing and sewing courses run by the Association.

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT BNP NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman on Monday said that the farmers would voluntarily agree to the abolition of land boundary. Reassured the land owners that none of them would lose their land holdings and the government would not take anyone's land.

Addressing the National Council Session of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Shilpakala Academy. President Ziaur Rahman who is the Chairman of BNP said that the Government was carrying out land reforms measures slowly. But the land reforms was an arduous task and the Government would do nothing without the consent and approval of the people.

The BNP Council Session was attended by about 2,000 delegates from all over the country. The session was also addressed by the Secretary General of BNP, Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz cabinet ministers members of the national executive and standing committees, Members of the Parliament, among others, attended the council session. The meeting lasted for over seven hours.

Speaking on foreign policy the President said that despite the fact that Bangladesh is a small country it has played important and significant role in establishing world peace and solving international problems. Proposals put forward by Bangladesh in the recently held Islamic summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia were accepted, he added. There was a consensus on the formation of an Islamic Common Market, the President pointed out.

Chairman Zia told the council session that foreign troops in Afghanistan and Kampuchea were working against the interest of the local peoples. The Palestinians are fighting to liberate their mother land and Bangladesh was playing its due role in all forums. The President said that the Bangladesh proposal for South-Asian summit has been accepted by the [words illegible]. The summit will be held soon, he added.

BSS adds: President Zia said that without changing the present administrative system, the nation could not progress towards the path of development we are going to reform the administrative structure in phases, he said.

The BNP Chairman said the Revolution cannot be successful with the present laws and statutes which we inherited from the colonial rules. We also have to revise and recast these laws suiting to our needs he said and added, the changes would be brought about after discussing the matters with the party leaders since the party was above everything a party Press release said.

The BNP Chairman said his party has been running the affairs of the country for the last two and a half years based on the ideal of Bangladeshi nationalism. The party has given revolutionary political social reforms and economic programmes to the nation which constitute the part of the peaceful revolution.

President Zia said, the people have reposted their confidence in the party and added, the entire nation today believed in one single politics that is politics of Bangladeshi nationalism. No other politics except the politics of Bangladeshi nationalism will find its place on the soil of the country.

The President exhorted the party workers and leaders to spread out the BNP organisation to every nook and corner of the country upholding the ideal of Bangladeshi nationalism he asked them to analyse and review the revolutionary programme of the party for realising the success.

The party Chairman said, we have consolidated the sovereignty and independence of the country we have to create condition for uniting the people from all walks of life where in they would be ready to sacrifice their lives for defending the independence along with the armed forces.

In this context he said we have raised Village Defence Party organised the Ansar and the Armed Forces.

He said besides strengthening the Armed Forces the students at all levels would also be trained to protect the national independence and sovereignty.

Referring to the food situation, President Zia said, we will double our food production in the next five years. Pointing out the success of the canal digging programme he said, today there is no space in the warehouses for storing foodgrains.

President Zia said during the current season 700 canals are being excavated or reexcavated in comparison to the last year's 250.

Turning to the education sector, the President said, schemes have been taken up for expansion of science and technical education. He criticised a section of opposition political parties who according to him have launched a vicious move to jeopardise the growth of secondary level educational institutions.

Referring to the family planning activities, the President said the programme has earned support from the people at large.

The President, said, all the industrial units of the country should have to be kept running round the clock by the end of the current year. We shall be also

able to make a breakthrough in the industrial sector like that the agricultural sector and for this we have to electricity everywhere in the country.

The BNP Chairman pointed out, the Swanirver Gram Sarkars have been formed throughout the country and thus we have restored the people's power which was strangulated by the Baksalites. The leaders of the Gram Sarkar are the elected representatives of the people. The institution of Gram Sarkar was the social and economic organisation at the lowest level, he added.

He reiterated his call to the people including men and women to participate in the development activities wholeheartedly. Our peasants and womenfolk are the most oppressed section of the society and they have to be reawakened. He urged the womenfolk to revolt against the present social system.

As regards to natural resources President Zia said steps have been taken for exploitation of the natural resources. Two more gas fields have been discovered in Noakhali and Sylhet.

He expressed his hope that oil will be struck in soil of Bangladesh. We shall extract coal by the next year, he added. Besides, he said special measures have been taken for exploration of oil gas and mineral resources in the Bay of Bengal.

The BNP Chairman said, the Second Five Year Plan is being implemented throughout the country and we have to formulate special strategies for its successful implementation.

BNP Secretary General Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury in his report said, the BNP politics was aimed at establishing a just social system for all sections of people. He told the party councillors that their role in history would be unique and unparallel since the BNP had initiated politics which was aimed at filling up the vacuum existing in the field and replacing the politics shorn of Bangladeshi nationalism.

He said that each worker will have to discharge his responsibility with sincerity and dedication since the success of the politics of peaceful revolution launched by BNP depends on them.

CSO: 4220

BNP NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION RESOLUTIONS REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] The council meet of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) held on Monday expressed its grave concern over provocative activities of a foreign country for creating trouble and tension along the border and announced the unity and determination of nine crore people of Bangladesh to face only threat against independence, sovereignty and national interests according to a Press release issued by the party last night. [as published]

In another resolution the council called for withdrawal of foreign troops from the soil of Afghanistan and expressed the view that the Afghan people must have the unfettered right to determine the destiny of their own nation.

The council also reiterated its unequivocal support for the non-aligned movement, the Third World countries and the Muslim world. The council also expressed its solidarity with the peoples world over fighting for national independence and sovereignty in the face of threats from the superpowers.

The council also expressed its support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to liberate their motherland from Israeli occupation.

The council adopted a Four-point organisational programme to strengthen the party through a three-month-long membership drive beginning from March 1.

During the drive new members will be enrolled and subscription from old members realised to finalise the membership list at all levels.

According to the programme elections to the party units at all levels will be announced within fifteen days of the final list of members.

An election committee, headed by the Vice-President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, one of the Vice-Chairmen of BNP, will be entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the party elections. The election committee will comprise the central leaders of the BNP.

The thana organising secretaries of BNP have been made full timers for strengthening the organisational activities of the party and they will be paid honorarium.

The council session also approved the amendments to the constitution, raising the number of members of the standing committee from twelve to sixteen including the Party Chairman, creating the posts of five joint-secretaries general and five secretaries in the national executive committee for Swanigyar mass education family planning and industrial revolution affairs.

According to other amendments to the constitution, it was decided to raise the number of members on the national executive committee from 140 to 185, create posts of two secretaries for sports and cultural affairs instead of one secretary and form village council and village committee at the initial stage.

CRO: 4220

REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH MINISTER BLAKER

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr Peter Blaker, British State Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has said "Bangladesh will be treated as a priority country as far as British economic aid is concerned."

Talking to the BANGLADESH TIMES on Tuesday evening at the State Guest House, Mr Blaker said that reduction of government spending forced the British government to cut its worldwide aid programme. "I have explained this to the government of Bangladesh," he said.

The British Minister denied the allegation that the nationality bill, now before the Parliament "is racially biased and designed to resist non-white immigrants." "It is not true. A person's racial origin is not relevant to the proposed law," he said.

The proposed law would not adversely effect "who is lawfully settled in Britain," Mr Blaker said.

Nationality Bill

Asked why dependents of Bangladeshi immigrants were to wait more than two years to get entry permit while Pakistanis and Indians were getting it in about one year and six months time respectively, Mr Blaker said "this a complicated matter and there is big demand." [as published] In some places of India number of applicants had gone down considerably, he said.

The British Minister said that the period of waiting had already been brought down to 18 months from previous two years. "We would like to see this period reduced further," he said and added "this is a big task." Young and newly wed people were being given entry permits without much wait, he said.

On the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Britain Mr Blaker said "It is cordial and flourishing." He said that next to India, Bangladesh was the second biggest recipients of British aid on bilateral basis.

Mr Blaker said that Britain was the second most important market for Bangladeshi commodities. There was no bar in increasing the volume of trade between the two countries because his country in general was following "open market" policy.

Private Sector Investment

Asked to comment on the possibility of British private sector investment in Bangladesh, Mr Blaker said that UK business community were interested in investing in Bangladesh. They were free to invest anywhere and in any sector of their choice. To facilitate this, British Govt. had withdrawn exchange control, more than a year ago, he said. He also welcomed foreign investment law enacted by Bangladesh.

Mr Blaker mentioned areas of British aid programmes in Bangladesh and in reply to a question said that a substantial project portfolio for British assistance was now under discussion.

Asked about the possibility of increasing British assistance to Bangladesh substantially in near future, Mr Blaker said he was not in a position to say any thing at the moment. He, however, reiterated that Britain would continue to treat Bangladesh as a priority country.

Replying to a question on the British attitude towards North-South dialogue the British Minister said barring certain suggestion like taxation on arm sale his country in general agree with Brandt Commission Report.

Robust Attitude

Replying to a question on the Afghanistan problem Mr Blaker said that all peace loving countries should keep up the pressure on the Soviet Union to pull out from Afghanistan.

The British Minister welcomed the "robust attitude" of the US President Ronald Reagan towards the Soviet Union and said it was good for the free world.

Mr Blaker who arrived on last Sunday morning left Dacca on Tuesday night for Karachi. During his stay he called on President, Ziaur Rahman, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Foreign Minister Prof Shumsul Huq.

With Trade Leaders

BSS adds: Earlier in the morning Mr Blaker told a meeting of trade and industry leaders at the Conference Room of Metropolitan Chamber of Committee and Industry that Bangladesh was already the second biggest recipient of British bilateral aid and "we want to develop economic relations with Bangladesh."

During the meeting the trade and industry leaders of Bangladesh in general expressed concern over cut in British aid and also tough generalised system of preferences and exchanged ideas with the Minister on the prospects of promotion of trade and investment in private sector between the two countries.

The British Minister said that his government during the last 18 months in office has pursued the policy of cut in government spending at home as well as overseas aid programme to resume a higher economic growth in the British economy, which, he added; needs invigoration. He, however, hoped that overseas aid programme would also expand with the expansion of the British economy in days to come.

Earlier, welcoming the British Minister, Mr Mushfequs Saleheen, President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, spoke of the long cultural and economic relations between the two countries and invited British industry to avail the opportunity of investment in private sector enumerated in the Second Five Year Plan.

Among others, Mr Nuruddin Ahmed, President of Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry also spoke.

CSO: 4220

BANGLADESH-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY MEETS IN DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz said that China is a "trusted friend" extending "unqualified support" in protecting Bangladesh national sovereignty and independence and also over coming its economic difficulties reports ENA.

The Speaker who is also the President of Bangladesh-China Friendship Society, was addressing the biennial conference of the samity at the auditorium of Dacca District Sports Association in Dacca on Friday evening.

The Speaker said China had stood by Bangladesh at a time when her national sovereignty was threatened.

The meeting was also addressed among others by samity members and political leaders Mohammad Toaha MP (BSD) Kazi Zafar Ahmed (UPP) Nurar Rahman (NAP) Surajul Hossain Khan (Jagmu) and Gias Kamar Chowdhury President of Dacca Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Samity General Secretary Lutfe Alam.

Referring to Chinese help and assistance in agriculture and technical fields the Speaker said it would help Bangladesh achieve self-reliance within a short time.

He pointed out that friendship between Bangladesh and China is "deep rooted."

Speaker Mirza Hafiz lauded Chinese policy towards Third World countries particularly newly independent small Asian countries. He said it has become an imperative for these countries to forge friendship with China for safeguarding and consolidating their national independence and sovereignty against unsatiable lust of "expansionist forces."

He hoped that the Friendship Society would expand its activities throughout the country and spread the message of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The biennial conference followed election of the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Society Mirza Golan Hafiz and Lutfe Alam were re-elected President and General Secretary respectively for the third consecutive term.

It elected nine Vice-Presidents including Mohammad Toaha MP Ali Ashraf Quamrun Nahar Laily Kazi Zafar Ahmed Enavetullah Khan and Shamsul Huda, Shamsul Alam Sikder has beer elected Treasurer. [as published]

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE SUSPENDS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] The Central Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League (Malek) has suspended Commandant Manik Choudhury Agriculture Secretary of the organisation on cha charges of violation of party discipline and indulging in anti people activities. The committee unanimously decided in its meeting on January 28 to serve him a notice to show cause within fifteen days as to why he will not be expelled from the party, says a Press release issued by the party Office Secretary on Sunday.

The committee received allegations against 10 of Chittagong and six students and youth of Dacca regarding disturbances at the Chittagong City Conference and at the party Central Office on January 13. The committee unanimously formed a two-member enquiry body to enquire and report to the central committee about the allegations. In the meantime those who are members of the party or any party-wing have been asked to submit their explanation to the central committee within 15 days. The committee unanimously requested Bangladesh Chhatra League to enquire into the allegations against its members and to take appropriate steps.

The Press release deplored that before the official announcement of the party decision some newspapers published reports mentioning involvement of some particular student and youth leaders. It further said that the name of the youth league leader which appeared in some newspapers to have been involved in the attack on party central office in which the Cultural Secretary was injured was contrary to the reports before the working committee.

CSO: 4220

CHHATRA LEAGUE STATEMENT SCORES AWAMI LEAGUE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr Dipak Das, Office Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Kader-Chunna) in a statement on behalf of its central committee on Saturday, criticised the Central working Committee and leaders of the Awami League (Malek) for deciding to take 'punitive measures' against four student leaders.

He said that the AL leaders had no right to take any such decision and direct the Chhatra League to execute it. He said that it showed "how blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Chhatra League was going on for a long time."

The AL Central Working Committee on Friday decided to ask Chhatra League (K-C) to serve show cause notice on Messrs Duke, Mohan, Shahjahan and Zafar, four leaders of the organisation implicating them for being responsible with the attack on AL office and manhandling of party leaders on January 11.

Mr Dipak Das said that "we would like to know with due respect from the AL leaders whether they have any constitutional rights to take any such decision against four Chhatra League members on charge of violating organisational discipline."

He further said that to involve Chhatra League with the "unfortunate incidents in front of the AL office is an attempt to tarnish its image." "If any individual of the Chhatra League was involved in these incidents the National Executive Committee of the organisation could take a decision in this regard after investigation. The AL could inform the Chhatra League leaders about it but could not direct it to take specific action against any member of BCL," he added.

Mr Dipak Das further criticised the silence of the central AL leaders about the injury of Md Faruk, member of Central Committee of BCL and Suman, worker of city BCL in front of the AL office at the hands of the "known government goondas' under the leadership of Dacca city AL General Secretary. It was unfortunate that among those who had been directed to show cause by AL were Messrs Duke and Mohan, Vice-Presidents of two Halls Students Union of Dacca University and one of them was not even present in Dacca during the incidents.

He urged the conscious members of the BCL to guard against such attempts at splitting the organisation.

CSO: 4220

ISLAMI CHHATRA SHIBIR HOLDS DACCA CONFERENCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Feb 81 p 8

[Text] The national workers' conference-81 of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir began in the city on Sunday with a call for the free and the Islamic world to sever all relations with Soviet Union and extend all out assistance to the Afghan mujaheeds.

The conference was formally inaugurated at the Ramna Green by Mr Justice F.K.M.A. Munim, Justice Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr Justice A.K.M. Baker, Moulana Sayed Muhammad Masum, Moulana Delwar Hossain Sayedi poet Talim Hossain Mr Abul Assad, Mr Akhtarul Alam, Mr Kamruddin Nur, Vice President of the Malaysian Islami Youth Movement, Mr Mahmud Tahantal an Iranian student studying in Bangladesh. Mr Shabbir Ahmad President of the Pakistani Islami Jamiat-e-Talata and Mr Muhammad Abu Taher President of the Chhatra Shibir.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference Mr Justice Munim called for implementation of the fundamental state principle enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh that faith and conviction in one Allah shall be the basis of all actions.

He said that mankind was fettered by clashing ideologies. In order to free ourselves from these, he said, "we must struggle hard and make sacrifices. He pointed out that mere hopes and aspirations would not be of much help and that organisation and strategy were as important as the targets."

In a number of resolutions passed at the conference the Shibir expressed its concern over the deteriorating condition of the education system unbridled price hike of day to day essentials deteriorating condition of the education system unbridled price hike of day to day essentials deteriorating law and order situation decadence of time-honoured values and undemocratic activities of the government.

The Shibir called for an Islamic education system in the country. It expressed concern over the strike by primary school teachers and called for immediate solution of the problems of primary teachers. Withdrawal of the Disturbed Areas Bill was also called for. The conference expressed concern over the repealed threats to national independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh by Indian expansionism and hegemonism. It also condemned Israel for turning the holy city of Jerusalem into its permanent capital.

CSO: 4220

CHHATRA LEAGUE LEADERS DISOWN 31 JANUARY STATEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Messrs Obaidul Kader and Bahalul Majnun Chunnu, President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Kader-Chunnu) in a statement on Sunday disowned the statement issued by BOL Office Secretary Mr Dipal Das on Saturday criticising Awami League (Malek) leadership.

The statement circulated by Mr Golan Mohjuddin, Joint Secretary of BCL did not, however, contain the signatures of the President and General Secretary.

The BCL leaders said that only the President and the General Secretary of the organisation had the authority to issue such a statement. They said that the statement signed by Dipak Das was issued by sidetracking the national executive committee of BCL and such statements only reflected the anti-unity attitude of certain quarters.

They urged the BCL workers not to be misled by such confusing statements and urged them to resist these sort of moves.

CSO: 4220

EKOTA PARTY LEADERS CALL FOR UNITED MOVEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] The leaders of Jatiya Ekota Party on Friday called for united movement of the people for achieving economic "emancipation of the masses."

Addressing a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square they said that the government was destroying the economy in the name of the politics of production.

Presided over by Syed Alaf Hossain, President of the party the public meeting was addressed by Sardar Abdul Halim, General Secretary Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, Joint Secretary and other central leaders including Messrs Saiful Islam, Zakir Ahmed, Dr Shahadat Hossain and Rafiq Ahmed Mondal.

Syed Altaf Hossain, a former State Minister of Mujib government, said that in the name of production the government was leading the country's economy towards destruction. Production of foodgrains, jute and tea was gradually coming down since 1977, he alleged.

He said that while production was coming down, the foreign debt was increasing thus making future uncertain. The country was now spending 17 per cent of its foreign exchange for debt servicing he said.

Mr Suranjit Sengupta said that the government was instituting Gram Sarkar and organising Village Defence Party only to continue in power.

Mr Sengupta criticised the appointment of Prof Afsauddin Ahmed as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dacca University.

Party General Secretary Sardar Abdul Halim criticised the government for its economic policies which he said was making rich richer and poor poorer, he called for united movement for economic emancipation of the people.

CSO: 4220

UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY RESEARCH BUREAU FORMED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] A research bureau under the auspices of the United Peoples Party was formed in Dacca on Friday, reports BSS.

Announcing the formation of the bureau at a Press conference at the Party office UPP Chairman Kazi Jafar Ahmed said one of the prime objectives of constituting the thing was to project positive politics before the nation.

Kazi Jafar said his party wanted to salvage the nations politics from the present aimless condition and also want to provide trading facilities to party workers.

Dr Syed Safiullah, Chairman Department of Chemistry, Jahangirnagar University has been made the director of the research bureau. An eight-member advisory committee headed by Dr Abu Mahmud, Professor of the Department of Economics, Dacca University as chief adviser has also been formed.

Explaining the various functions of the bureau the UPP Chairman said it will assist in formulating party decisions on a number issues of national importance like economy, state and government agrarian reform, defence and foreign policy. He said the bureau will also hold seminars and workshops to formulate and educate the people on issues of national importance.

CSO: 4220

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES FARMERS CONFERENCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Faridpur, Feb 7--Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman called upon the peasants to build peasant organisations under the aegis of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and stimulate the development of scientific agriculture, reports BSS.

Addressing a peasants conference at Madhukhali School premises today the Prime Minister said peasant's organisations and cooperatives will protect interests, ensure fair price and eliminate the vicious circle of middle men. He said that Government has attached top priority to agriculture. Agriculture is protected to grow at a rate of 6.3 per cent, during the Second Five Year Plan period. The country will surely achieve a breakthrough in agricultural development and there will be large productive employment opportunities for the vast majority of rural workforce, he added.

He said Government is already providing irrigation equipment to the farmers at subsidised price. Medium term bank credit and high yielding variety of seeds, are also being provided.

Shah Aziz said that the Government has already launched a massive programme for manufacturing agricultural equipment like weeders, threshers, seed drils, [as published] hand pumps locally and added that there is enough stock of shallow and deep tube wells at the disposal of the Government which the farmers must utilize.

The Prime Minister said as a result of digging of nearly 200 canals and with this extension of irrigation facilities there has been seven lakh tons higher production of wheat as well as of paddy last year. "We have also embarked upon digging of 700 more canals which will increase irrigated acreage from 3.1 million acres to 7.5 million acres." This network of water reservoirs will ensure multicropping pattern so as to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains as well as to earn ability to export this the surplus, he added. Gram Sarkars he said has brought the Government to the doorstep of the villages. Moreover, this Gram Sarkars will help in resolving village disputes and establishing self-reliant economy.

Speaking on primary education he said, the teachers strike at the beginning of the academic year has caused in calculable harm to millions of children.

He regretted that a section of the primary school teachers being politically motivated are spreading false rumours Shah Aziz reiterated that the status and the service security of this teachers will be the same as before. [as published] The Government has taken full responsibility of payment of their salaries and other benefits but the people of villages have a right as tax payers to watch and supervise the functioning of the schools which they will do in every sphere of government activities. He called upon the teachers to resume their duties immediately in the interest of the children.

The Prime Minister emphasised the urgent need to preserve enlarge and consolidate a massive national unity on the basis of Bangladesh nationalism.

Presided over by local BNP leader Advocate Sarwar Jan Meah, the conference was addressed by Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury Information and Broadcasting Minister Mr K.M. Obaidur Rahman Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mr Sirajul Huq Montu State Minister for Textile, Mr Abdul Mannan Sikder, State Minister for Industries Mrs Farida Rahman MP (Whip)Sirajul Islam Mridha local MP Shah Abdul Halim MP and other local leaders.

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERSHIP CRISIS DESCRIBED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The finance committee of Bangladesh Awami League (Malek) met at the party office on Wednesday, Party chief Mr Abdul Malek Ukil General Secretary Mr Abdur Razzak and other top leaders attended the meeting.

The leaders will again meet today (Thursday) at 4 p.m. at the Banani residence of Mr Abdul Malek Ukil.

Meanwhile hectic behind the scene parley is going on to resolve the leadership crisis. A source said that both Mr Malek Ukil and Mr Abdur Razzak belong to same lobby and one shall have to quit the present party position for accommodating either President or General Secretary from the other lobby dominated by Dr Kamal Hussain and Mr Tofael Ahmed.

According to a source close to the party Mr Abdur Razzak will retain his position as the General Secretary and Mr Malek Ukil will have to quit in favour of either Dr Kamal Hussain or Mrs Zohra Tasuddin.

The top notchers of the party are learnt to have been trying to keep the party together by accommodating President and General Secretary from two warring groups one led by Mr Abdur Razzak and the other led by Mr Tofael Ahmed. A source close to Mr Abdur Razzak said that they would choose the party leadership through secret ballots in the council session.

If the efforts to resolve the leadership crisis fail there may be two separate panels--one led by Dr Kamal Hussain or Mrs Zohra Tajuddin and Malek Ukil or Mr Abdus Samad Azad. But the party top leaders are hopeful of keeping the party together at any cost.

The constitution subcommittee of the party has been meeting to provide for a collective leadership by abolishing the post of Vice-Presidents and forming a Presidium.

Meanwhile the President and the General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League the youth front of Awami League (Malek) in a joint statement on Wednesday announced the postponement of the third Congress of the organisation Jubo League scheduled to be held on February 8 and 9. The congress has been

postponed in order to avoid a showdown between the two warring groups before the council session. It may be mentioned here that Mr Amir Hussain Amu, President of Jubo League belongs to Mr Tofael's group and Fakur Abdur Razzaque belongs to Mr Razzak's group. The postponement of the congress indicates, the political observer view, that the leaders of both groups were taking allout efforts to keep the party united.

BSS adds: Two top Awami League (Malek) leaders on Wednesday ruled out the possibility of shifting the council session of the party, any further which is scheduled to begin here on February 14.

Earlier the party has shifted its council session twice.

They said that brisk preparations were afoot to hold the council session on schedule and pointed out that posters relating to the conference had already been distributed to all the party units throughout the country.

The leaders who preferred not to be quoted told BSS that the constitutional committee of the party had been meeting for the last few days to bring about possible amendments to the party constitution for "evolving a collective leadership."

One of the leaders said that the party leaders had agreed in principle to go in for collective leadership and the constitutional committee was working on the ways to give a concrete legal cover to it under the party constitution.

When asked to comment on the reported rift in the party leadership both the leaders dismissed it as mere kite-flying.

One of the leaders said when workers were united, no leader could do any harm to the party.

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE GROUP DISCUSSES PARTY RULES CHANGES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Feb 81 pp 1,12

[Text] The Central Working Committee of the Bangladesh Awami League (Malek) at its meeting on Monday took up discussion on amendment of the party constitution. The proposed amendments seem to provide for a presidium and secretariat instead of office-bearers. The meeting was adjourned till this morning.

The committee shall have to arrive at a decision by today (Tuesday), because the party's extended central committee meeting will begin on Wednesday. There was, however, a clear indication that the party was going for introduction of presidium and secretariat. The change in the party structure came as a compromise formula to narrow down the sharp inner struggle and to pacify the two warring factions.

The constitution subcommittee on Monday informally discussed the amendment proposals to the party constitution and referred the matter to the working committee for a decision. Party President Abdul Malek Ukil presided over the working committee meeting on Monday.

The working committee discussed formation of presidium comprising 11 members and central secretariat with 12 members. Only two or three individual members proposed to expand the number of presidium members to 15. It was again due to the apprehension that if the number of presidium members was fixed at 11 some influential members are likely to be out of the presidium.

It was further learnt that the constitution sub-committee proposed for a central committee with 49 members including the members of the presidium and secretariat.

The present central committee is composed of 54 members including 20 office-bearers. More over, the provision of election of two officebearers namely Youth Secretary, and Secretary Women Affairs, who were elected as ex-officio is likely to be dropped and chiefs of Jubo League, Sramik League and Mahila League are likely to be made ex-officio members of the Central Working Committee.

The working committee on Monday approved four district committees out of six which came up before the committee. The approved committees are of Narayangani Bhola, Madaripur and Gopalganj. The committee was discussing approval of the disputed Chittagong South committee on Monday night.

A party spokesman told the OBSERVER on Monday that the three-day biennial council session of the party on February 14 at Hotel Eden will be inaugurated at 2.30 p.m. Leaders of different political parties have already been invited to attend it. It will be attended by 1854 councillors (1804 elected by the district committees on the basis of population at the rate of one for each 50 thousand 50 to be nominated by the council) and an equal number of delegates from districts will attend the council.

The spokesman further said that so far the central committee has approved 60 committees including those approved on Monday out of 60 organisational districts. Election in seven districts have not yet been held. Approval of two more district committees were pending before the committee on Monday.

CSO: 4220

CHITTAGONG AWAMI LEAGUE SPLITS INTO TWO FACTIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chittagong, Feb. 2--The Chittagong South District Awami League (Malek) finally took the lead in splitting the Bangladesh Awami League by putting up two separate district committees.

The Chittagong South District Awami League divided into two formal factions even in presence of Bangladesh Awami League General Secretary Mr Abdur Razzak and Education and Cultural Secretary Mr S. M. Yusuf. However, the division came through two separate Council sessions. Both the factions claim that they enjoy support of the central leadership.

The two groups separated in separate Council sessions at Chittagong Press Club and at J.M. Sen Hall respectively on Saturday elected the district committees for the current session.

In the Chittagong Press Club the former State Minister for Industries, Prof Nurul Islam presided over the session, Mr Abdur Razzak and Mr S.M. Yusuf graced this session with their presence. This session reelected Mr Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and Mr Abu Saleh as President and Secretary respectively of Chittagong South District Awami League for the current session.

The opponent group's session at J.M. Sen Hall was presided over by Mr Sultan Ahmed Kusunpari.

Dr Faizur Rahman group in their Press statement said that his group met the Bangladesh Awami League Secretary, Mr Abdur Razzak in Chittagong after the Council session was over.

They further said that a separate Council session at J.M. Sen Hall was held as it was not possible to hold session in Chittagong Press Club. They claimed that the Press Club remained surrounded by armed persons during the session.

CSO: 4220

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL HOLDS 24 JANUARY MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The National Economic Council met on Friday night to review the production performance of various industrial units especially the enterprises in the public sector says a PID handout.

The installed capacity the attainable capacity and the actual production vis-a-vis targets were discussed.

The Council directed the Ministry of Industries to ensure increased capacity utilization and maxisation [as published] of industrial production through better maintenance of plants raw material programming in advance improved management, greater productivity and efficient marketing.

The Council also directed the Ministry to expeditiously complete Balancing Modernization and repair of important plants like Khulna Newsprint Mills Karnafuli Paper and Rayon Mills Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ghorashal Fertilizer Plant and Chittagong TSP Plant. [as published]

The Council noted that the Ministry of Industries was taking steps to achieve sugar production target of 1,56,000 tons during the current crushing season. The NEC directed the Ministry to increase production of sugarcane by popularizing production of quality canes through vigorous research and extension activities.

CSO: 4220

SEVEN-POINT 'ISLAMIC REVOLUTION PROGRAM' LAUNCHED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 81 p 12

[Text] The Jamat-e-Islami of Bangladesh on Friday launched a seven-point Islamic revolution programme for establishing a welfare state in the country on the basis of the Holy Quran and Sunan, reports BSS.

Announcing the programme at a special workers conference held at Ramna Green in Dacca on Friday afternoon, the Acting Amir of the party, Maulana Abbas Ali Khan called for restoring human and Islamic values in the society and stopping corruption and anti-social activities.

The seven-point Islamic revolution programme includes declaration of Bangladesh as Islamic republic formation of a government with men of character and competen personalities, protection of sovereignty, total establishment of law and order, introduction of Islamic economic system, Islamic education and culture and restoration of all rights of women is permitted by the Holy Quran and Hadit.

Presided over by Maulana K. M. Yusuf, Deputy Amir of the Central Committee, the conference was also addressed by Maulanc Matiur Rahman Nizami Amir of the City Committee.

Maulana A K M Yusuf in his presidential speech said that President Ziaur Rahman was following the China system in disguise of his nationalism movement. He urged the party workers to be alert against the agents of socialism.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS NEWSMEN BEFORE DELHI PARLEY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Huq left Dacca for New Delhi on Friday with the hope that Non-Aligned Movement would emerge more united and more faithfully committed to its principal and objectives.

The Foreign Minister was talking to newsmen at DIA, Kurmitola prior to his departure for New Delhi to attend four-day Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference beginning on February 9.

In reply to a question Prof Huq said that he would meet Indian Foreign Minister Mr Narosima Rao today (Saturday) to discuss bilateral issues. They would also review the progress of implementation of various decisions taken during their last meeting, he said.

The Foreign Minister said that the Foreign Minister's Conference was going to be crucial for the future of the Non-aligned Movement. Since the Havana summit the movement was facing serious problems like Afghanistan question and Iraq-Iran conflict.

He said that if the UN resolutions on Afghanistan and Kampuchea were a guide, some polarisation in the views within the groups seemed to be inevitable. This would result in some fireworks in the statements to be made by the representative of the countries which had taken strong views on the problems.

Prof Huq said "we may see some dramatic development in the conference." Serious efforts would be made to find out a political solution to the problems which were posing as a threat to the Non-aligned Movement.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran conflict and Kampuchean questions would certainly receive the focus of attention of the conference. Military presence of great powers in different areas would also receive serious consideration he said.

The Foreign Minister informed that both Iran and Afghanistan were going to be represented at high level at the conference. This would bring together all the four concerned countries--Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

He said that Bangladesh would try to play an active and constructive role. Regarding proposals of food security and development of human resources. Bangladesh had an important role to play, he said.

Stressing the importance of Non-aligned Movement an international organisation second only to the United Nations with 96 members--the foreign minister said that this was the forum through which efforts could be made to restructure the world order, both political and economic to ensure global peace and promote progress and development in Third World countries.

The Foreign Minister is expected to return to Dacca on February 13.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS PRESS ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 81 pp 1,12

[Text] The Foreign Minister, Prof. Shamsul Huq, said in Dacca on Friday that the third Islamic summit conference provided a blueprint of guidelines for co-operation among Islamic States and also between Islamic States and other states which share the Islamic values of peace, freedom tolerance justice equality human dignity and universal brotherhood of mankind.

Briefing the press at the Foreign Office on the third Islamic summit conference held in Taif, Prof. Shamsul Huq described the summit as very significant and a new milestone in the history of the organisation of Islamic conference. He noted that the conference held at the most critical juncture in the history of the Islamic World which was bleeding for three wounds--in the Middle East, in Afghanistan and in the Gulf region.

The conference had to come into grips with the challenges and problems which were extremely difficult and complex which includes threats to the political and economic security of other parts of Islamic World and the great power rivalry for commanding economic resources and for extending their spheres of influence and also the divisive forces which threatened to split the Islamic World.

Prof. Huq stated that the conference discussed the entire gamut of political and economic security of the Islamic States and adopted a strategy for only the liberation of Palestinian and Arab territories but also promoting and strengthening the unity within the ranks of the Islamic countries and also establishing closer cooperation among them in political economic and cultural fields.

He said that the Mecca declaration was an historic document which is a new charter for the Islamic World with an important message for the rest of the world. The conference, besides Mecca declaration, adopted a number of resolutions.

Prof. Huq said that Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman played a very important role in the summit conference and his role was highly appreciated by all. He said that the appreciation was demonstrated through his unanimous election of one of the three Vice-Presidents of the Islamic Summit Bureau of King Khaled of Saudi Arabia is the President of the Bureau. The Foreign Minister said that the Bureau has been created for the first time and its function would be to review the progress of the implementation of the resolutions of the summit conference. [as published] The Bureau would meet periodically.

Prof. Shamsul Huq also said that President Zia had been elected a member in the eight-member heads of state good office team to find a solution to the Iraq-Iran war. President Zia also presided over the plenary session on Al-Quds Agenda. He is the member of the three-member Al-Quds Committee of which King Hasan of Morocco is the Chairman. [as published]

Prof Shamsul Huq said that one of the important decisions was the adoption of the report of the Al-Quds Committee. The report contains a comprehensive strategy of action for liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories with restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians. The strategy envisages the use of all possible measures, political and economic, including the use of oil weapons for achieving the objective. The programme of action also aims at mobilising world opinion including urging European community to support the just and legitimate cause of the Arabs and Palestinians regarding Afghanistan the conference viewed with deep concern the continued military presence in Afghanistan and adopted a decision requiring the expanded committee to collaborate with the representatives of the U.N. Secretary General with a view to finding an early political solution of the problem. The fratricidal war between the two brotherly islamic countries was a matter of deep anguish, since it posed a threat to the security of the entire Gulf region and a global confrontation. [as published]

The conference also decided that Islamic countries should not join any power bloc and allow any military bases to be established on their territories by any external power. The conference also pledged to continue efforts to keep the Indian Ocean Arabian Sea the Red Sea and the Gulf free from Big power military presence.

Regarding Jehad Prof. Shamsul Huq said that the world had been misinterpreted by the media. Jehad means just struggle to protect the independence and rights of the Islamic countries. It should not be considered as aggression.[as published]

Prof Huq said that the Bangladesh resolution on Least Developed Countries co-sponsored by other Least Developed Islamic Countries was adopted. The decision envisages special assistance to the least developed Islamic member states a special relief to overcome the crisis created by the international upheaval.

Prof. Huq further informed that a special development fund of three billion U.S. dollars was created with a view to rendering special assistance to the less developed countries to accelerate their economic development. He disclosed that Saudi Arabia had contributed one billion dollars while three other Gulf states contributed 1.3 billion dollars. He hoped that the fund would be expanded further to the benefit of the Least Developed Countries of the Islamic World. Other important decisions of the summit conference were: 1) establishment of Islamic Ship Owners Association, 2) agreement on promotion, protection and guarantee of investment in member states. In the cultural field, the important decisions were the organisation of Islamic games and sports and holding of periodical tournaments based on the Bangladesh resolution and consolidation of the organisation of science and technology and development of education and culture.

Prof. Huq said that President Ziaur Rahman during his stay in Taif and Mecca held bilateral talks with many leaders of the Islamic World including King Khaled, Crown Prince Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, President Hafiz El-Assad of Syria, President Chadly of Algeria, President Ziaul Huq of Pakistan, President of Senegal, President Saddam Hussain of Iraq, Presidents of Guinea, Gambia, Mali, Maldives, King Hussain of Morocco, King Hasan of Jordan, Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahiyan of UAE, President Numeri of the Sudan, Prime Minister of Turkey, Amir of Bahrain and others.

The Foreign Minister and the Finance Minister of Bangladesh also met their counterparts of various countries. The Finance Minister, Mr Saifur Rahman, held talks with Saudi leaders and officials of Islamic Development Bank. He gave them some portfolios of projects. He said that he received encouraging response from the Saudi Government and the quantum of the grants and the aids would be enlarged, he added.

The Press briefing was also attended by Mr Shamsul Huda Choudhury, Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

CSO: 4220

FINANCE MINISTER: MORE AID FROM ISLAMIC STATES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 31 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman said on Friday that "very soon" Bangladesh was likely to receive more economic assistance from Islamic countries.

Mr Saifur Rahman who attended just concluded third Islamic summit conference was briefing newsmen along with the Foreign Minister on the outcome of his bilateral talks regarding economic cooperation.

The Finance Minister said that he had discussed with Finance Ministers of different countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE. These discussions had resulted in "much better appreciation of our problems." They have agreed to consider Bangladesh' proposals "more sympathetically" he said.

Mr Saifur Rahman said that Bangladesh had sought substantial increase of economic assistance from different Islamic countries. He had received "positive assurance" from Saudi Arabia in this regard, he said. Finance Ministers of Kuwait Qatar and UAE have agreed to discuss more projects for economic assistance.

The Finance Minister said that it was agreed to modify policy and programme of Islamic Development Bank so that least developed countries could get more loans from this financial institution.

He said that during 1978-79 Bangladesh received 150 million dollar as Saudi grant Bangladesh had requested "substantial increase" of this amount. [As published] The Saudi side had assured that they would consider the request sympathetically.

The Finance Minister said that Saudi development fund had already pledged 300 million dollar assistance for different projects. But so far Bangladesh could only utilised 15 million dollar for development of railway. Due to delay in finalisation of projects remaining portion could not be used.

However, Saudi Arabia had already signed 30 million dollar for Jaipurhat lime stone project and assured 85 million dollar for Chittagong urea fertilizer project and 20 million dollar Rani Pukun hard rock project. Ten million dollar railway track rehabilitation project and 18 million dollar now lift pump project were in final stage of negotiation, he said. [as published]

Mr Saifur Rahman said that Bangladesh had sought 20-25 million dollar assistance from Saudi Arabia for hanger complex at Dacca International Airport (DIA), Kurmitola, Saudi side had assured that they would seriously consider the proposal. Saudi Arabia had also agreed to give consideration to other projects submitted for assistance.

An expert team from Bangladesh would leave Dacca for Saudi Arabia on February 2 to discuss all these projects with Saudi side, he said.

The Finance Minister said that from Islamic Development Bank Bangladesh had sought 20 million dollar to finance crude oil import in addition to already sanctioned 40 million dollar to finance foreign trade 10 million dollar to buy two second hand ships, 16 million dollar for Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory and 15 million dollar for Jaipurhat Limestone Project. [as published]

CSO: 4220

MINISTER SCORES MALPRACTICES IN MANPOWER EXPORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Mymensingh, Feb. 9--State Minister for Manpower Development and Social Welfare Mr Ataauddin Khan has warned of severe action against those resorting to malpractice in manpower export, reports ENA.

Addressing a public meeting Sunday in connection with opening of an eye camp at Biddananda Madrasha Ground, the State Minister said licences of more than a dozen recruiting agents had been cancelled for alleged malpractice. The procedures for giving clearances and recruitments for foreign employment had been modified to ensure justice to job seekers.

Mr Khan said that efforts were also being made to recruit unskilled labour for employment abroad from each thana so as to ensure equal representation of all regions of the country.

Addressing the gathering Mr Habibullah Sarkar, MP, said that Fulbari PS had been included in rural social service programme and the proposal for establishment an orphanage had also been considered by the Department of Social Welfare.

About 200 patients for cateract operation and 1000 eye patients for other treatments were registered at the eye camp. The camp was organised by the local people in collaboration with Lions International and other voluntary organisations.

CSO: 4220

RELAXATION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY CONTROL ANNOUNCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh Bank on Monday announced relaxation of foreign exchange control regulations for incoming and outgoing passengers of both Bangladeshi and foreign nationalities, reports BSS.

A citizen ordinarily resident in Bangladesh would be able to carry without declaration and endorsements in passport up to dollars 25 or equivalent during going abroad or upon return home from a foreign trip. Foreign nationals as well as Bangladeshis living abroad would be able to carry dollars 150 or equivalent in foreign exchange without declaration or endorsements during return home or going abroad.

The Bank said in a Press release that a Bangladeshi wage earner abroad would require to declare the fund if he wanted to encash the fund under Wage Earners' Scheme. Under the relaxed procedures, a Bangladeshi citizen would be able to carry Taka 100 in Bangladesh currency during a foreign trip.

The Press release said: Under the existing exchange control regulations all incoming passengers on their arrival in Bangladesh are required to declare foreign exchange brought in by them on FMJ form prescribed by the Bangladesh Bank regardless of the amount brought in the amount declared $ is also required to be surrendered to an authorised dealer in foreign exchange within one month.

For the convenience of the incoming passengers bringing smaller amounts, it has been decided to do away with the requirement of declaration and surrender of amounts specified below:

(1) In the case of Bangladesh nationals ordinarily resident in Bangladesh--upto US dollar 25/ or its equivalent in foreign currency.

(2) In the case of Bangladesh nationals living abroad and foreign nationals--upto US dollar 150/- of its equivalent in foreign currency.

The above relaxation will also enable overseas Bangladesh is returning from Bangladesh to carry with them upto US dollar 150 per person for meeting immediate expenses on arrival at their place of work abroad, and this can be done without any permission or any endorsement on the passport. Similar facility will be available to resident Bangladeshis but the amount will be limited to US dollar 25 in their case. The declaration requirement will continue to be in

force if the amounts brought in exceed the ceilings prescribed above. Further in case of wage earners, the declaration requirement will have to be fulfilled in respect of the amount for which the benefit of Wage Earners' Scheme is required.

Further under the existing exchange control regulations persons going out or coming into Bangladesh can take out or bring in Bangladesh Taka 20 only in value at any one time. This limit of Tk 20 fixed long ago, is now far too small an amount to meet the requirements of local funds immediately on arrival in Bangladesh. It has, therefore, been decided to raise the limit to Tk 100 per person with immediate effect.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER SAYS 5 PERCENT OF GDP FOR RESEARCH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Feb 81 p 8

[Text] A government policy on the medical researches was critically discussed at the inaugural session of the six-day workshop on 'research promotion and development.'

The workshop, jointly sponsored by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), began at the auditorium of the Institute of Public Health at Mahakhali on Monday.

Prof Nurul Islam, Chairman of the BMRC, who presided over the inaugural session of the workshop, said that the government did not attach adequate attention to the research promotion in the country. He said the annual allocation for medical research was only Taka six lakh while expenditure on many official functions was far more than this amount.

However, State Minister for Science and Technology, Dr R. A. Ghani, who was the chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop and contradicted Prof Islam said that it was the "decision" of the government to laid great importance on the research in all sectors. [as published] He said that five per cent of the GDP would now onwards be spent on research activities because "we cannot depend on foreign technology which in many occasion do not suit our requirement." He said that the private sector would spend 10 per cent of their profit on research.

Prof Nurul Islam said that the research in Bangladesh was under bureaucratic control for which many talented persons did not come forward and preferred to remain in isolation. He said that while publications of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council were appreciated and given due recognition in many foreign countries, but the researchers were not even welcomed for their works. [as published]

Prof Islam said that his organisation had approved many research projects but could not back up those due to the shortage of funds. "While we can not support the researchers otherwise, we can at least encourage them and appreciate their works." He urged the government to call them and love them. In turn, he said, they would also respond to the call of the government.

Dr R. A. Ghani said that research promotion was no longer under the control of bureaucracy. He pointed out that a national council for science and technology

had been formed with the President of the country as its Chairman. The council had six members all of whom were renowned technical persons and holding high government positions, he said. Dr Ghani said that adequate attention was being given to research activities.

The inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by Dr Faridul Huda State Minister for Health and Population Control, WHO representative in Bangladesh Dr Zvonko J Sestak and Prof A. K. Khan Director of Bangladesh Medical Research Council.

Dr R. A. Ghani said that the BMRC had so far engaged itself mostly in the area of biomedical science in a limited way. Those had also not been done in a effective and organised manner he said.

He said that only some individual initiatives had been taken in the field of herbal medicine without direct impact on the common masses. Major effort was yet to be made to carry out intensive research outside the clinics, he said.

Dr Ghani said that the policy of the government was aimed at maximising the utilisation of local medical plants and herbs through scientific and technological research. He said that so far the country had been totally dependent on imported medicine.

The State Minister said that BMRC should prepare both short and long term research programme. While the short term programme should include immediate production of medicines, medical equipment and aids by utilising the local talents and resources, the long term programme would be drawn up to make the country completely self-reliant in due course, he said.

The workshop is being participated by about 40 physicians.

CSO: 4220

FREEDOM FIGHTERS CONFERENCE OPENS IN DACCA

Opening Speeches Reported

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Feb 81 pp 1,12

[Text] The two-day fourth biennial council conference of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad began in Dacca at the Shilpakala Academy on Saturday reports BSS.

Attended by several thousand representatives of the freedom fighters from all over the country the inaugural session of the conference was presided over by the Convener of the Constitution Committee of the Central Command Council Lt. Col. (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman.

The Chief of Army Staff Lt. General H.M. Ershad who is also the Chief Adviser to the Sangsad attended the function as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion Lt. General Ershad termed the freedom fighters as the "great and ever-respected" for their outstanding contribution during the War of Independence of the country and called upon them to forge a greater unity amongst themselves.

He urged the "heroes of the Liberation War of the motherland" to protect their greatness and honour through their dedicated services to the nation and by their behaviours and activities.

Terming the council conference as "important" for the freedom fighters as well as for the whole nation General Ershad hoped that the ensuing elections of the new leadership of the Association in the Council would lead the freedom fighters to their cherished goal. He paid tributes to the Martyrs of the Liberation War and called upon the freedom fighters to undo any conspiracy against the "heroic sons of the soil" by any vested quarters.

Referring to the preparation of the list of the genuine freedom fighters General Ershad who is also the chief of the list-preparing committee said that there was "no political motive" behind it. He said it was necessary for the interest of the genuine freedom fighters as well as for the history of the nation. Despite criticisms and bitter attacks from different quarters the list of the genuine freedom fighters must be prepared as our future generations should know the heroes of their Liberation War General Ershad pointed out.

He called upon the freedom fighters to extend their best possible help so that the list of the genuine freedom fighters was prepared in time.

General Ershad also cautioned that the freedom fighters who shed their blood for the motherland should be aware of the conspiracy by the vested quarters and must not be used any more by any interested quarters. They were being used and victimised since 1972 and now they should be sure that they are not to be victimised any more he emphasised.

In his presidential speech Lt. Col. (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman said categorically that the Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad was not a front organisation of any political party. The only politics of the freedom fighters Lt Col. (Retd) Zaman said was to ensure the interest of the people as well as that of the country.

He called upon the freedom fighters to be "imbued with fresh realisation" and work with zeal and dedication for the establishment of an exploitation-free society.

He also called upon the freedom fighters to extend their allout help for the preparation of the list of the genuine freedom fighters and pointed out that genuine FFs must have their name enlisted for their own interest.

Strongly criticising the "betrayals" of the "political leaders" to the people during the Liberation War Lt. Col. (Retd) Zaman said that it was the general people students teachers workers the army the former EPR and the police who had fought against the Occupation Army. Those valiant sons of the soil were not party members they were simply patriots he stressed.

Lt. Col. (Retd) Zaman also said that the freedom fighters were used time and again by the vested interests and subjected to various kinds of tortures. They were isolated from the people willfully he added.

He called upon the freedom fighters to keep vigilance against the "enemies of the Liberation War who were defeated militarily but rehabilitated politically again. He said the freedom fighters who had fought for the people must not be isolated from them. They are always with the general people and want their rehabilitation in the hearts of the masses he observed.

The session was also addressed among others by Wing Commander (Retd) S. R. Mirza Joint Convener of the Constitution Committee who called upon the freedom fighters to forge unity.

The inaugural session observed one minute silence and offered special prayer for the salvation of the departed souls who had laid down their lives for the cause of the country.

Officials Elected

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Feb 81 p 12

[Text] A 21-member Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad was formed on Saturday the next two years at its fourth national biennial council session with Lt Col. (retd) Kazi Nuruzzan (Bir Uttam) as chairman and Mr Naim Jahangir as Secretary-General, re Press release of the Sangsad said on Saturday night, reports BSS.

The other office-bearers are: Vice-chairman Wing Commander (retd) Ehsan Mirza, Major (retd) Nurul Huda (Bir Uttam) Mr Mashrurul Haque Siddique (Bir Uttam) and Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury (Harun), members of the Secretariat--Mr Nasiruddin Yusuf, Mr Fateh Ali Chowdhury, Mr Farouq-e-Azam (Bir Pratik), Mr Gias Uddin (Bir Pratik), Mr Ismail Hossain Bengal, Mr Shafiqul Islam (Khoka), Mr Manwarul Islam, Mr Rezaul Ahmed, Mr K.M. Mahbubul Alam, Mr Sharif Uddin, Syed Anwarul Haque, Mr Khalequzzaman Farouq, Mr Kabir Ahmed, Mr Zakir Hossain and Mr Wahedunnabi Mintu.

CSO: 4220

DACCA PROPOSED AS JUTE ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 81 p 16

[Text] The proposal for making Dacca the headquarters of the proposed International Jute Organisation (IJO) received considerable support at the recently concluded conference of jute producing and importing countries in Geneva.

Mr Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary Ministry of Jute, who headed the Bangladesh delegation to the negotiating meeting on his return home told BSS on Tuesday that Bangladesh had effectively put across its case for location of the IJO headquarters in Dacca. He said "our claim has been established and it will be reflected in the final agreement."

Mr Ahmed said that all the producing countries had supported the Bangladesh claim as it represented the heartland of jute with Nepal, India, Burma and Thailand and as it is contiguous to one another and at a hopping distance even to China, the other said Brazil which belonged to another hemisphere also lent eloquent support to Bangladesh, he said.

Among the consuming countries Mr Salahuddin Ahmed said that Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, Yugoslavia and the USSR informally made it clear that they would support Bangladesh on the question of headquarters. It is expected that further support would come from the consuming groups, he said.

Mr Ahmed said the exporting and consuming groups held fruitful discussions on various matters relating to IJO. They also exchanged views on the four draft agreements presented in the three week meeting. The producing countries, the United States, the EEC and Japan presented draft agreements, he said.

Mr Ahmed said that due to divergence of opinion on different important issues, the agreement could not be finalised in that meeting. He, however, expressed his firm optimism that the next meeting in Geneva would definitely produce agreement.

Mr Salahuddin Ahmed said that the conference Chairman Mr Felipe Jaramillo of Colombia presented a draft text on the basis of the discussions and views expressed by the exporting and consuming groups. The draft text representing highest common factors of agreement, would be thrashed out finally in early May in the final round of negotiations in Geneva, he said.

During the conference Bangladesh was elected Chairman of the exporting countries and during the negotiations as chief spokesman on behalf of all producing countries. Bangladesh was also the Chairman of the Credential Committee at the conference.

An informed source said that long deliberations had been going on under the sponsorship of UNCTAD since late 1976 between 6/7 producing countries and about 50 jute consuming countries. Earlier about 10 preparatory meetings were held between producing and consuming countries apart from 6 to 7 regional meetings among the producing countries themselves the source said.

CSO: 4220

EEC OFFICIAL VISITING DACCA TO DISCUSS AID

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] Mr Klaus Meyer, Director-General of the Development Division of the European Economic Community (EEC) arrived in Dacca on Tuesday on a four day visit to "exchange ideas" on the community's relations with Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Mr Meyer told reporters at the airport that different questions relating to the Community's assistance to Bangladesh as well as trade promotion would be highlighted in his talks with officials here.

The EEC Executive was received at the airport by the Foreign Trade Secretary, Syed Amir Khasru, Baron Von Marshall, the FRG Ambassador and Mr W. Sinninhe Damste; the Dutch Ambassador were among the EEC diplomats present at the airport.

Mr Meyer also expressed the hope that the EEC could increase its aid to Bangladesh which is the biggest recipient of the Community's food aid. He said there could be some increase in food aid this year.

Mr Meyer also assured that the Community would increase the quantum of project aid to Bangladesh. During his stay here he would take the opportunity to analyze some of the ongoing projects being implemented with EEC support and discuss possible future projects.

Asked to comment on the prospect of increasing Bangladesh exports to the EEC, Mr Meyer said that it depended on the production and expressed his satisfaction that there had been considerable improvement in recent times.

He said Bangladesh had already been getting concession with regard to jute and jute goods exports to the Community and noted that from 1983 onward jute products would get free access into the EEC market.

Mr Meyer expressed the hope that cooperation between the Community and Bangladesh would be intensified in different fields of development and trade promotion. The EEC Director-General is expected to leave here on Friday.

CSO: 4220

DACCA TAKES STEPS TOWARD COTTON SUFFICIENCY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jessre, Feb. 5--Textile Minister Mr Mansur Ali said that effective steps are being taken to attain self-sufficiency in cotton production as good quality cotton could be grown in our soil.

The Minister was inaugurating the first cotton purchasing centre of the country at Jhikar Gacha this morning.

He disclosed that during the current year 25 thousand acres of land will be brought under cotton cultivation jointly by BTMC and Ministry of Agriculture and the expected yield will be about 20 thousand bales of cotton.

Government has to spend Taka two hundred fifty crores including one hundred eighty crores in foreign exchange to meet the deficit. He further disclosed that during the Second Five-Year Plan, Government has taken up a scheme for production of six lakh bales of cotton to attend self-sufficiency in cloth and for this purpose eight lakh acres of land will be brought under cotton cultivation. In order to increase cotton production Government was giving incentive by supplying shallow tubewells, hand pumps, agriculture loans and insecticides. The Minister hoped that the country would be able to save Taka six hundred crores in foreign exchange if we could reach the cotton production target. He also disclosed that Government will open 50 cotton purchasing centres in the country so that the cultivators could get fair price for their product. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mr Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui MP and District Development Coordinator Jessore. Later the Minister also addressed a rally of cotton cultivators.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES RIVER WATER PROBLEMS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq on Wednesday ruled out the necessity of holding a summit meeting between Bangladesh and India on the problem of augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges, reports BSS.

"I don't think it is necessary he told a questioner at a meeting with the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association Bangladesh (OCAB) at a local hotel in Dacca on Wednesday afternoon.

The Foreign Minister described the augmentation of Ganges waters between the two countries permanent basis as a "technical problem" and said "We don't object whether it is discussed at JRC or any other commission." He said, "What we want a rational solution to this problem acceptable to co-riperian countries of the Ganges basin."

Prof. Huq maintained that the JRC had not exhausted all the possibilities of finding out a solution to the augmentation problem of the Ganges waters. He hoped that a mutually acceptable solution could be found on the problem in a spirit of good neighbourly relations.

The Foreign Minister refuted INDIAN PRESS reports alleging that Bangladesh had refused to study the Indian proposal on link canal. He said that the proposal had been well studied by Bangladesh.

He said the link canal proposal if implemented would have "disastrous effect" on Bangladesh as he noted the proposed 200-mile long canal from Brahmaputra would displace about three million people apart from destroying the plain and cultivable lands in Bangladesh.

Prof. Huq reiterated the Bangladesh proposal of building up natural reservoirs in the upstream of the Ganges in Nepal for augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges and said that if the proposal was accepted India would be in fact the largest beneficiary. He said that 12 natural reservoirs which could be built in Nepal would hold sufficient quantity of water which would meet the needs of water of both Bangladesh and India, "much better than at present."

Nepal is a willing to cooperate in such a project, he said and hoped that an easy solution could be found through the Bangladesh proposal. [as published]

Referring the third review meeting between the Bangladesh and India on the Farakka Agreement, the Foreign Minister said that the meeting was expected to be held in Dacca late this month or early March. He expressed optimism that the forthcoming review meeting on Farakka Agreement would be able to resolve the problem.

On the so-called foreigners issue in the north eastern Indian states Prof. Shamsul Huq reiterated the Bangladesh stand and said that Bangladesh would not accept any one expelled by India. He said that there had been no illegal movement of persons across the border.

Replying to a question on division of assets and liabilities with Pakistan Prof. Huq said that an expert level committee had been set up during the visit of Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr Reaz Piracha to Dacca recently. He denied that the idea of division of assets and liabilities has been dropped.

Referring to Bangladesh proposal on the South Asian Summit for Regional Co-operation the Foreign Minister said that a meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of seven concerned countries was expected to be held in Colombo in the second week of April.

He said during the meeting of Non-aligned Foreign Ministers in New Delhi next week he would discuss the matter with the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

He said that the working paper on the proposal had already been circulated by Bangladesh to those countries and were likely to come up for discussion in the Colombo meeting.

Prof. Huq categorically said that the proposed South Asian Regional Cooperation would not in any case be a political alliance or a new power bloc. Its objective is to forge cooperation among the regional countries in economic technical communication cultural and similar other fields.

CSO: 4220

FRG TO AID IN CATTLE-BREEDING PROGRAM

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh and West Germany on Wednesday signed an agreement to continue technical cooperation at the central cattle breeding station at Savar reports BSS.

Under the agreement German assistance for the project is provided for three years with a view to promoting cattle breeding and farming in Bangladesh.

Mr Hossain Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Dr Baron Von Marschall, FRG Ambassador in Bangladesh, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective Governments.

The project activities will cover continuation and intensification of extension work, intensive practical and theoretical basic and further training for the counterparts and continuation of research and practical tests.

Further development of the cattle breeding programme consolidation of the milk collection network, continuation of the efforts to improve fodder growing, multiplication of the results of the breeding programme and the promotion of the use of cattle as draught animal on farms are also part of the project activities.

The German contributions comprise over 400 man-months of experts services, training of Bangladesh counterpart personnel abroad and supply of machinery, equipment, vehicles and spares as well as breeding materials.

Under a second agreement the FRG Government would provide specific production inputs like mineral fertilizer, printed milk-packing materials sprayers for pesticides and veterinary medicaments for the central cattle breeding station (CCBS) at Savar.

The cooperation at the CCBS at Savar is the largest single project of technical cooperation with the Government of Federal Republic of Germany. Dating back to preliberation times it is also among the oldest on going projects. Dr Marschall later told BSS that the agreement would help our two "friendly countries" to continue good and long standing cooperation. He referred to the various projects where FRG assistance had been provided and expressed the hope that FRG would continue to cooperate in the development activities of Bangladesh in the future.

CSO: 4220

EXTERNAL RESOURCES DIVISION ON USE OF AID

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Heroic efforts are envisaged in respect of domestic resource mobilisation in order to achieve the public sector outlay for the Second Five Year Plan period which is expected to be Tk 201,250 million. This would mark a 306 per cent increase in real terms over the performance in the previous five years (1975-80).

This has been stated in the third official document on flow of external resources into Bangladesh published by the External Resources Division (ERD). The document says "though heroic efforts are envisaged in respect of domestic resource mobilisation, there will still be a very large gap to be filled in by external assistance.

The document points out that it is projected that the share of external resources in the total development outlay would be substantially reduced "however in absolute terms, it is expected to increase at a rate of about 10 per cent in real terms over the present level."

The document points out that the ERD must make sure that aid is provided to the right sectors and the desired programmes at the most appropriate time from the most desirable sources and at the right terms and conditions.

Stressing the need for well coordinated aid mobilisation the document calls for ensuring inter-agency coordination right from the stage of "broaching of an idea with a donor."

"Issues should be defined priority should be assigned, administrative and financial arrangements should be agreed to choice of design and technology should be settled and mode of implementation and operation should be clearly visualized," the document said.

"Unless those are done carefully and in time," the document cautions," aid negotiations will be complex lengthy and disadvantageous."

The document also calls for working out a strategy for mobilizing adequate quantum of the "right type of external assistance. It is also essential to lay down a very systematized and streamlined procedure for proper and rapid utilization of foreign aid so that we can lay the foundation for the posterity to be on the path of self reliance," the document adds.

CSO: 4220

COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Government has recently constituted a National Training Council with the Establishment Minister as its Chairman, according to a Gazette Notification.

The newly constituted council will prepare national policies regarding training, review and evaluate those and make necessary corrections. It would also fix priorities and allocate resources and determine the relationship of training and education with public administration and economic development.

The members of the council are Minister of Industries, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Minister of Manpower Development and Social Welfare, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women Affairs, Minister for Education two members of the Parliament two leading people's representative secretaries of Cabinet Division, Establishment Division, External Resources Division. Finance Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Member (social infra-structure), Planning Commission, Director General, NIPA Vice-Chancellor, BUET, Principal Bangladesh Administrative Staff College Chairman University Grants Commission, Chairman, Department of Public Administration, Dacca University, Principal COTA and Additional Secretary & Training and Career Planning [word illegible].

CSO: 4220

PREPARATIONS FOR 1981 CENSUS-TAKING REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Brisk preparations are afoot for holding the country's second population census beginning March 6 next.

An official source told BSS that the field work would be taken up for the midnight of March 5 with enumeration of all transient people living in hotels, hostels, messes, hospitals, [word illegible], railway stations, bus stations, ports and under staircases of buildings and also on streets in cities.

The enumeration of these transient people will be completed in the night which has been called "the census night."

The enumeration work for all household population will be taken up from March 6 and will be completed by March 8. The complete enumeration programme will be followed by a largescale sample census for a period over two months beginning November 1 this year.

The first population census was held in the country in 1974. The census would not be held earlier due to the war of liberation.

Dr A.K.M. Ghulam Rabbani, Secretary, Statistics Division of the Planning Ministry, in an interview said that there were about 25 per cent undercount in Dacca and more than 30 per cent under count in Chittagong alone during the first census. The overall undercount during the last census was about 20 percent in the urban areas, he said.

Dr Rabbani said that adequate measures had been taken to bring the undercount to a minimum 2 to 4 per cent. He referred to the measures and said that a comprehensive post-enumeration quality check (PEC) would be conducted within one month of the main census. This would be done to test degree of under-enumeration, overcount and overall quality of enumeration, he said.

The PEC will be conducted by selecting a sample of 250 enumeration areas (EA) spread throughout the country, 150 being rural and 100 urban. The PEC would be done by the personnel of the Statistics Department, he said.

Dr Rabbani said the population of Dacca city might be over 35 lakhs in the next census compared to 16 lakhs during the first census in 1974. About 2 to three lakhs of transient people were likely to be enumerated in the census in the city, he said.

He said about 2 lakh 55 thousand enumerators, including 44,000 supervisors, had been appointed to conduct the enumeration work during the three days of census.

About the training facilities of the enumerators and supervisors he said that 24 master trainers of the Bureau of Statistics would be engaged for giving training to 800 zonal officers. The zonal officers of Rajshahi and Khulna Divisions will undergo a three-day training from February 9 at Dacca while the remaining 400 officers will receive training during February 15 to 16, he said.

These zonal officers in turn would impart training to the supervisors on February 26 and 27. Each zonal officer would provide training to 50 supervisors.

Dr Rabbani said that the supervisors, who would inspect the activities of the 5 enumerators on an average, would also give training to them on March 3 and 4.

Meanwhile 4500 union committees, 500 municipal ward committees 471 thana committees, 17 subdivisional committees and 20 district committees had been formed to make the census a total success. He said the forming of the committee was aimed at including the prominent people. The Dacca Metropolitan Census Committee was also formed with Mayor at its Chairman he said.

He said the slogan of the census is "nobody will be left out from the census while no one will be counted twice." He also said that March 2 will be observed as the Census Day throughout the country to create awareness among the members of the public and ensure full cooperation.

Dr Rabbani said that the total budget for the census was Taka 15 crore of which Taka 6 crore where received from foreign agencies. [as published]

He said that Mr K.M.A. Barnett, an expert from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had already arrived in this connection. Mr Barnett was associated with population census work in Hong Kong (1971) and Zambia (1974).

He said that a simple questionnaire containing all basic household and population characteristics would be served during the census for achieving highest perfection in the census.

He said that according to the last census the household in the urban and rural areas constituted 9 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. The rate might go up to 12 per cent in urban and 88 per cent in the rural areas, he said.

He expressed the hope that the result of the first count would be available within one month while details would be available by the end of this year.

CSO: 4220

RESEARCH TEAM DEVELOPS LOW-COST WIND TURBINES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Feb 81 p 12

[Text] A research team of five Engineering University teachers and students have developed some simple and low cost wind turbines unable for water lifting as well as power generation in coastal areas.

These turbines are made of cheaper materials like canvas, bamboo and pieces of drums easily available locally.

Trial operation of prototypes are going on in the mechanical department of BUET.

Headed by Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof. Mechanical Department, Mr Kamrul Islam, Assistant Prof. and three final year students are researching in the project.

They have developed three types of wind turbines: savonius wind turbine, sail wind mill and darrius wind turbine.

The cost of manufacture of sail types will be Taka 500. It can be constructed by bamboo and canvas.

Savonius type has greater efficiency than sail type, but its production cost is higher. A savonius turbine of bigger size will cost about Taka 1,000.

Darrius kind turbine is the most developed one. It is made of galvanized iron sheet. Its cost of production is above two thousand taka.

The team has been researching since March 1980. The head of the team hopes that they would be able to set the first turbine in the coastal area by the beginning of next year.

CSO: 4220

FOOD MINISTER REPORTS INCREASE IN STORAGE SPACE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] The country's foodgrain storage capacity is expected to increase to nearly 17 lakh tons in next two months, Deputy Minister for Food, Mr Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury said in Dacca on Thursday.

He told B.S.S. that substantial progress had been achieved in building a national foodgrain storage system since the launching of the current procurement drive when godown capacity was only 11 lakh 72 thousand tons.

Until recently food storage capacity was nearly 15 lakh tons including hired and temporary godowns, Deputy Minister pointed out.

He said the Government attached much importance to building foodgrain storage system. Under a crash programme nearly four lakh tons capacity additional godowns were being constructed at thana level and important production centres.

When completed, these new godowns would bring the country's total food storage capacity to over 18 lakh tons within the current financial year according to official projections.

Meanwhile, construction of godowns with total capacity of holding 50,000 tons under the crash programme had already been completed.

The Deputy Minister said that in addition to those new godowns, there would be more ware houses to be constructed with foreign assistance.

Asked about the procurement situation Mr Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury said that since July last about 6,55,000 tons of foodgrains had been procured through 700 centres.

He said that with the increase of food production procurement programme had been intensified. But he pointed out that in view of increased volume of work in the procurement drive, there had been shortage of adequate staff and lack of adequate equipment and transport facilities.

Apart from local public procurement committees, a special inspection team with high officials of the Food Ministry has been working to ensure smooth functioning of the procurement programme.

Mr Iqbal Chowdhury observed that "there was a stable price level of foodgrains existing throughout the country, there is no fluctuations in the prices," he added.

He said fair prices were also being ensured at the growers' level and categorically ruled out any possibility of damage or wastage of paddy and rice anywhere in the country.

Mr Chowdhury also urged the farmers to sell good quality paddy and rice to the procurement centres and called for their cooperation in making the procurement drive a success.

CSO: 4220

BIOGAS PLANTS PLANNED AS CHEAP ENERGY SOURCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] The Bangladesh Environmental Pollution Control (EPC) has taken up a project to set up 780 bio-gas plants in Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra districts as a source of cheap energy in rural areas.

Works for the plants with an individual capacity to produce 100 square feet of gas costing about Taka 6500 will begin shortly, it is learnt.

Each plant would provide sufficient fuel or cooking for a six-member family on the day and generate 90 kilowatt power to light several electric bulbs. [as published]

Recently the National Economic Council approved a project for setting up five thousand pilot bio-gas plants at an estimated cost of Taka four crore 26 lakh. The EPC under the science and technology division would set up the plants.

One such plant was shown to a group of newsmen on Saturday at the Savar Garosasthya Kendra by the EPC officials. The newsmen saw the cooking and bio-gas bulbs powered by the plant. The bulb resembles the mentel of a bajack light. [as published]

The EPC officials said that the first experimental bio gas plant was set up in Savar Dairy Farm. It had a floating dome to produce the gas. Now after much experiments the EPC found that fixed dome plants would be effective in Bangladesh in view of economic and environmental conditions.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

YOUTH TRAINING ABROAD--Comilla, Jan. 31--The Government will henceforth attach top priority on sending the Youths who have already been given training for rural leadership for mobilisation and participation in national development, to the Commonwealth and Asia-Pacific countries under the mutual exchange programme. Mr Abul Kashem, Minister of State for Youth Development, said this while he was concluding session of the 4-week long training programme for rural youth leaders for mobilisation and participation in national development on Saturday afternoon held at BARD sponsored jointly by Bangladesh Jatiya Juba Sangstha, Ministry of Youth Development and UNESCAP. The training programme was participated by 36 youth leaders including three from foreign countries. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Feb 81 p 12]

AIR FORCE GRADUATION--Jessore, Jan. 31--The graduation parade of two batches of cadets of the Bangladesh Air Force was held at the BAF Base Matiur Rahman here this morning reports BSS. Lt. General H M Ershad, Chief of the Army Staff was the chief guest and reviewed the smartly turned out parade, took the general salute and distributed flying wings to the Flight Cadets. The function was attended among others by Rear Admiral M A Khan, Chief of the Naval Staff Mr A H F K Sadique, Secretary Ministry of Defence Members of the diplomatic missions, high ranking civil and military officials and guardians of the cadets. Earlier the chief guest on his arrival at the parade ground was received by the Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Sadruddin. [Excerpts] Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Feb 81 p 12]

DANISH FERRIES ACQUIRED--The Danish Government on Friday formally handed over to Bangladesh two new ferries provided under a grant costing about Taka nine crore, reports BSS. The Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr Per W. Frelles vig, handed over the keys of the two ferries--"Amanat Shah" and "Shah Jalal" to Capt. (Retd) Nurul Huq, Minister for Ports, Shipping and IWT at a simple ceremony in Dacca on Friday. The two ferries of the "roll on roll off" type built in Denmark will now be put in the Aricha-Nagarbari route to ease the road communication with the northern districts. The ferries which have already arrived are now under trial operation. Each of these ferries has a capacity of carrying 26 trucks and about 350 passengers. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 81 pp 1, 12]

NEWSPRINT TO INDIA--Negotiations for the export of an additional quantity of 3 500 metric tons of newsprint worth 1.7 million US dollar to India have been completed, the Chairman, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Mr Mohsarat Hossain said in Dacca on Friday. Talking to B.S.S. Mr Hossain said his Corporation was awaiting "final confirmation" from India for the import of Bangladesh newsprint. A delegation of India's State Trading Corporation which negotiated with the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation during the former's visit here last week has agreed in principle for import of the newsprint he said. With this additional quantity of newsprint would import 10 000 tons of newsprint by the end of current financial year under a protocol signed earlier. India's State Trading Corporation has already contracted for import of 6,500 metric tons of newsprint from Bangladesh. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 81 p 1]

FRENCH DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE--The French Parliamentary delegation on Friday left for home concluding a five-day, visit to Bangladesh, satisfied and impressed with the country's development efforts. Mr Hector Rivierez first Vice President of the French National Assembly and leader of the five member delegation told BSS at the airport prior to departure, the visit had enabled the members to "enrich their knowledge about Bangladesh and make them aware of the problems facing the country. Mr Rivierez who is also President of the Friendship Group "France-Bangladesh said on our return to Paris, we will advocate for further cooperation" [punctuation as published] in the relations between the two countries. Mr Rivierez, who witnessed canal digging at Cox's Bazar, was "impressed" by the voluntary participation of the people and said the people were concerned about the programme. He also personally participated in the canal digging. It was the first visit of any French Parliamentary delegation to Bangladesh. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 81 p 1]

CORN CULTIVATION URGED--Saidpur (Narayangan]), Jan 31--Agriculture Minister Nurul Islam urged the farmers today to bring more lands under maize cultivation because it is rich in food value and has also bright marketing prospect, reports UNA. Addressing a peasant rally at the Local Bangabandhu High School premises here, the Agriculture Minister said that industry will be set up using maize as raw material if this crop is cultivated in a massive scale. Mr Islam said that maize can be used for production of sugar oil, milk bread and butter. He advised the farmers to take to the habit of using maize as a foodstuff. Meanwhile, according to Agriculture Directorate sources about 10,000 acres of land were brought under maize cultivation during the current winter season. The sources said that maize can be produced round-the-year and the Directorate of Agriculture has a plan to bring 50,000 acres of land under maize cultivation during the next year. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 81 pp 1,12]

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE--The Government has reconstituted the Board of Governor of the Bangladesh Administrative Staff College with the Minister for Establishment as its Chairman, says an official announcement. Other members are: Ex-Officio-Cabinet Secretary; Secretary, Establishment Division; Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Division and Principal Bangladesh Administrative Staff College, Dacca. Nominated Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Secretary,

Ministry of Education; Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Chairman, University Grants Commission; Mr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Vice-Chancellor, Jahangir Nagor University; Dr Wahiduddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Engineering University; Dr Mrs Najma Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Political Science, Dacca University and President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Vice-Principal, Bangladesh Administrative Staff College, Dacca will be the Member-Secretary of the Board. The tenure of office of each member except the ex-officio members, shall be three years. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 81 pp 1, 12]

MESSAGE TO SRI LANKA--President Ziaur Rayman has sent a message of greetings to Sri Lankan President JR Jayewardene on the occasion of the National Day of Sri Lanka, says BSS. In his message President Zia said, it is a matter of deep gratification that the close and friendly relations which so happily exist between our two countries continue to grow in strength. He expressed his confidence that in the years to come the common aspirations and shared interests will further consolidate the long standing ties of friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of our two peoples and countries. The president also extended his best wishes for the health happiness and long life of President Jayewardene and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Sri Lanka. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 81 p 1]

UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR--Professor Mohammad Afsaruddin of the Department of Sociology has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University for a period of four years. Professor Afsaruddin joined the Department of Sociology as a Lecturer in 1958. He was the Chairman of the Department since 1976. He was a member of Bangladesh delegation to the 35th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1980. He was a member of the Jails Reform Commission, National Committee on Law and Order, Population Council and other social organisations. One of his research works was referred to in the bibliography of the 15th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica of 1974. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 81 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY--Government has appointed Mr C. M. Murshed as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Turkey, said a PID handout. Mr C. M. Murshed was born in February, 1928. He was educated in the University of Calcutta and Indiana University, U.S.A. He attended a number of professional, technical and managerial courses at leading institutions in Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States. He started his career as a business executive and served in several firms as General Manager and Director. Mr C. M. Murshed has travelled widely in Europe, North Africa, Japan Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong Thailand and Middle East. Prior to his appointment as Minister Charge d' Affaires in Bucharest (Romania) in June, 1975, he was Chairman, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation. He has been the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Afghanistan since January, 1977. Mr C. M. Murshed is married and has two children. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 81 p 16]

AIR FORCE DISPLAY--President Ziaur Rahman on Tuesday morning witnessed an attractive fire power demonstration of Bangladesh Air Force in Tangail area, according to an ISPR Press release in Dacca, reports BSS. The demonstration staged was apart of the joint exercises of the Army, Navy, Air Force and other paramilitary forces which began throughout the country on Monday. Earlier, President Zia visited a static display of aircraft, armaments and ammunition of Bangladesh Air Force at BAF Bashar Base. Later, in the afternoon the President visited the troops in exercise areas in the North Bengal. Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Cabinet Ministers and MPs accompanied the President. Chiefs of the three Services were also present in the exercise areas. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Feb 81 p 1]

JOINT AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION--Cox's Bazaar, Feb 5--President Ziaur Rahman witnessed an amphibious operation of Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force and other paramilitary forces at the coastal areas of Cox's Bazaar this morning reports BSS. An ISPR source said that the BAF aircraft naval ships and Army troupe participated in today's joint exercise. The amphibious operation was staged as a part of the joint exercise now being held throughout the country. The President also witnessed an Army exercise at Joydevpur areas. President Zia was accompanied amony others by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz-Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and high-ranking civil and military officials. Chiefs of the three Services were also present. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Feb 81 p 1]

SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT--Fiftyeight leaders and workers of different political parties led by Mr Mohammed Kamaluddin a leader of Bangladisher Samajtantrik dal (BSD) of Mirpur area joined the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Secchasevak Sangstha on Wednesday, reports BSS. A Press release of the Sangstha said that the leaders and workers expressed the confidence in the dynamic leadership of President Ziaur Rahman and extended full support to his 19 point programme. Kazi Zamal Hossain, acting Office Secretary of the sangstha welcomed them to the organisation at a function in his residence. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Feb 81 p 12]

CSO: 4220

INVESTIGATION OF BRIBERY CASE CONTINUING

Jurist Under House Arrest

Jakarta HARIAM UMUM AB in Indonesian 29 Dec 80 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Judge Heru Gunawan of Central Jakarta District Court, who early this month was caught red-handed by Central Security Operations officers receiving bribes amounting to 10 million rupiahs from a defendant in a case he (the judge) was handling, has asked the minister of Justice for mercy for his malfeasance. The take was part of the 50-million-rupiah bribery involved in the case.

Minister of Justice Mudjono, surrounded by reporters after attending the ceremony for the transfer of authority and investiture of the new inspector general of the Department of Justice last Saturday, stated that Heru Gunawan's request for pardon has been granted and that the suspension from duty imposed against him would be rescinded before 1 January 1981.

The said judge would be permitted to continue handling unfinished cases in court.

However, said Minister Mudjono, the granting of the pardon does not mean the case against Heru Gunawan has been closed. The minister has even given permission to the Central Security Operations officers to keep on investigating the bribery case to the very end.

Born in East Java of Chinese ancestry, judge Heru Gunawan, before being caught red-handed accepting the bribe by security officers, was already widely suspected of having connections with courts of justice and committing acts illegedly contrary to his duties as a judge. His work style is clearly pictured in the manner he examines and decides on cases he handles.

Many of his court decisions have been evaluated by knowledgeable people as "strange."

Judge Heru Gunawan

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 31 Dec 80 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court remains firm in forbidding judge HG to convene any kind of cases in court in whatever level, whether it is preliminary investigation, halfway in the process of investigation, not yet judicially decided or even not yet begun the investigation, in his position as judge or member of a council of judges.

"This prohibition was issued on 4 December last," said Chief Judge Djoko Sugianto on behalf of the chairman of the Supreme Court, replying to a newsman's question concerning the status and duties of HG today.

Djoko Sugianto added that this prohibition remains valid indefinitely until it is revoked.

Judge HG was placed under house arrest at his luxurious home located in Pluit, North Jakarta on suspicion of accepting bribery in a "Pungli" [illegal, wild collection] corruption issue against a certain Mrs MS, a defendant in another case involving the swindle/embezzlement of jewelry valued at hundreds of millions of rupiahs.

However, Justice Minister Mudjono, who issued the "house arrest" warrant against judge HG, has subsequently revoked it and permitted the said judge to carry on where he left off before 1 January next year.

The minister's reasoning for the repeal was because the ethnic Chinese judge has submitted a request for pardon, which has been granted.

9300
CSO: 4213

U.S. POLICY UNDER REAGAN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 26 Dec 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Judging by the Cabinet formation announced by President-elect Ronald Reagan, it becomes more evident that an escalation of U.S.-USSR arms race will happen, said H. M. Iskandar, member of House Foreign Affairs, Defense and Information Committee on Wednesday. Efforts for world detente will undergo a difficult test, while continuation of the Salt II Treaty remains to be seen.

"What is important for Indonesia as a nation of independent identity is not to let herself be dragged to the camp that would run counter to our national interests. We should even be more active than ever before in carrying on with the role of maintaining world peace and stability," explained this member of the United Development Party faction in Parliament. "It is not enough for us to operate within ASEAN only."

Amin [sic] Iskandar based his assessment and conclusion of the world situation on the following three factors. Firstly, Ronald Reagan and his administration will strive to restore U.S. supremacy in all fields, in line with the spirit of the American people who aspire to be the number one in all aspects of life. Secondly, relationship between the U.S. and USSR will become more strained, due to the apparent rapprochement between the U.S. and PRC. This means that the cold war between the U.S. and USSR will be intensified, and it may even develop into a real war. The toughening of U.S. policy became apparent in facing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Polish issue. Thirdly, it is certain that the U.S. will attempt to drag her allies and other countries under her influence to back up the U.S. policy in confronting the USSR.

He continued that such moves will be felt in Indonesia also, for instance, by using Indonesia as an overt or covert port of call for U.S. military. Other similar moves will be undertaken by the U.S. in facing international political problems. To this end, the U.S. will also make use of economic aid as a weapon.

Amin Iskandar specially pointed the spotlight onto certain Reagan aides who fulfill the qualifications to carry out the abovementioned factors. The appointment of General Alexander Haig as Secretary of State on the advice of former President Richard Nixon clearly carries a special significance in the light of U.S.-PRC relations. For it was during the Nixon administration that rapprochement between the U.S. and the PRC was initiated. Moreover, General Haig represented a figure who favored the strengthening of NATO's armament all these years.

The appointment of Professor Jean Kirkpatrick of Georgetown University as U.S. ambassador to the UN shows Reagan's determination to retrieve U.S.'s supremacy. Her writings and thoughts conform to this aim. "So, once again the important thing is how we can defend our Indonesian national identity in facing this kind of international political developments as we approach the new year of 1981," concluded Amin Iskandar.

9300
CSO: 4213

PUBLISHERS OF SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE LINKED TO SOVIETS

[Editorial Report] Karachi JASARAT in Urdu on 7 January 1981, page 3, discusses the seizure of two pamphlets entitled AWAM DOST (People's Friend) and THE LAST WARNING, by the Government of Baluchistan. In addition, it has also ordered the seizure of a book published by Novosti Press, Moscow, entitled "Da-Shuravey Ittehad Kommunistan."

It further argues whether the formal order of seizure would indeed stop the publication and circulation of such books in Baluchistan. The most effective method is to arrest and crush those subversive elements which bring and circulate anti-Pakistan foreign literature in Pakistan. The government must certainly be aware of the source through which this literature reached Pakistan and who was responsible for its distribution in Baluchistan. The government is also aware of how the publications by Novosti Press enter Pakistan and who distributes them in this country. The attention of the government has been drawn several times towards the activities of these destructive elements. Regrettably, it has received no attention. The traitors of Pakistan and some of our fellow countrymen continue to engage in their anti-Pakistan activities.

A demand is made to the government not to let formal proceedings suffice in this regard, but, while realizing the significance of National Security and Defence, it should lodge a strong protest on a governmental level to the countries and embassies concerned. They should be requested to put an immediate end to such activities. If there is no positive reaction, such foreign embassy personnel with elements of animosity towards the integrity of Pakistan should be declared undesirable and asked to leave the country. It is anticipated that these brief expressions of thought would be adequate to draw the attention of the government to this serious situation and that it would execute its responsibility to the best of its ability.

9779
CSO: 4203

EXPORTS TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES REACHES $71 MILLION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Feb 81 p 16

[Article by Rosario A. Liquicia]

[Text]

PHILIPPINE exports to centrally-planned economy countries reached $71 million last year, surpassing the government's target of $47.4 million, it was reported by the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC).

PITC is the corporate arm of the trade ministry which oversees and monitors the country's trade transactions with socialist and other centrally-planned economy countries.

It had the sole authority to deal with the Socialist bloc until last year when the accredited trading companies were allowed to trade directly or directly with centrally-planned economy countries.

The bulk of the country's exports to the bloc consisted mainly of traditional export commodities such as copper concentrates, coconut oil, desiccated coconut, chrome concentrates, nickel briquettes, and lumber, PITC said.

Imports contracted and consummated, on the other hand, reached $6.4 million or 8.47 percent over import targets of $5.9 million during the year, PITC added.

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PITC also said that the country's efforts to increase its product mix paid off with the sale of non-traditional export products such as coffee, rice bran, fresh coconut, ginger, banana puree and canned pineapples.

In terms of product classification, industrial and resource-based commodities accounted for $66.6 million or 93 percent of total exports; agro-based products, $4.6 million; and the balance, general merchandise.

Specifically, the biggest export was copper concentrates valued at $55.6 million representing 78.31 percent of total exports to the bloc. Of this, $52.1 million, or 93.71 percent, went to the People's Republic of China.

Other major export products were nickel briquettes, $7.8 million (10.99 percent); canned pineapple, $2.1 million (2.96 percent); veneer, $2.0 million (2.82 percent); and chrome concentrates, $1.6 million (2.25 percent).

The major export market last year was the PROC with a share of $53.6 million, or 75.49 percent of total exports, followed by Romania with $7.8 million (10.99 percent); North Korea, $3.2 million (4.51 percent); and the German Democratic Republic, $3.1 million (4.3 percent).

PITC also reported that export sales through a third country were undertaken by its branches abroad to boost the country's exports.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT ASSURES PUBLIC ON FOOD PRICES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Feb 81 pp 1, 5

[Article by Alfredo Lobo]

[Text] The national food authority (NFA) assured the public yesterday that there is a stable food supply in the country and there will be no untoward increases in the prices of basic commodities.

The NFA will intensify this year its buying and marketing operations to stabilize supply and prices of prime commodities throughout the country with a backup fund of some P3.5 billion, they said.

Food Minister Jesus Tanchanco said that systematic food stockpiling and distribution of rice, milk, meat, cooking oil, vegetables sugar and other basic food items will be undertaken.

He said this will be done with the use of the various facilities of the national grains authority (NGA), the Food Terminal, Inc., (FTI) and the Kadiwa centers which are the backbone of the newly formed NFA.

The NGA and the FTI will undertake expanded procurement and storage operations while the Kadiwa centers will serve as primary outlets for food items at low prices.

A hundred more Kadiwa centers will be set up this year in addition to some 200 Kadiwa centers already in operation, Tanchanco said.

NGA Deputy Administrator Pablo Pablo said the NGA will intensify its palay-buying operations this year despite a present stock of some 600,000 metric tons of rice. He said that the authority has a P2-billion capital outlay, including credit line, to finance its procurement, storage, and marketing operations.

Deputy General Manager Elmo Custodio of the FTI said that the agency which has a backup capital of P1 billion will intensify its buying of meat, vegetables, canned goods, and other basic products for distribution at Kadiwa centers and other outlets.

There will be no shortage of cereals in the country, even if most of the ricelands in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Bukidnon have been damaged by the recent floods.

This assurance was given by Minister Jesus Tanchanco who said that as of today, the NFA has an inventory of about 600,000 long tons of rice in all its warehouses all over the country.

In Cagayan de Oro city, the PC-INP regional command urged civilian government authorities to start discussions on how to rehabilitate the flood victims, in order to prevent a possible upsurge of criminality in the area. (CNJr)

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT ORDERS FREEZING OF TRUST FUNDS

Manila THE BULLETIN in English 6 Feb 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] The First Lady, Gov. Imelda R. Marcos, ordered yesterday Metro Manila commission's finance officer Mauro Calaguio to freeze all trust funds in the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila.

This was in reaction to the P30 million loan of Quezon city trust funds to the Ramawil Realty and Development Enterprises, Inc. which was reportedly based on fake land titles.

Mrs. Marcos, who had earlier ordered an investigation of the scandal, said that trust funds should be invested only in government securities.

She cited CBCI bonds, national home mortgage bonds, public works bonds and treasury bonds — all guaranteed by the government.

Trust funds should, under no circumstances, be invested in private corporations that have no government guarantee, it was explained.

Such funds should never be touched without the approval of the Metro Manila commission, the MMC said.

Vice-Gov. Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. said that in all cases, the commission on audit must come in since it has jurisdiction over all government funds and accounts.

Mathay said he was waiting for the written report of QC Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez on the Ramawil case.

The P30-million loan came from QC trust funds deposited by the late Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto with the Philippine Veterans Bank.

QC authorities later transferred the funds from the PVB to the Land Bank, which reportedly effected the loan.

Subsequently, it was discovered that the collateral of 784,657 square meters of QC property was non-existent, and allegedly covered by titles.

After getting the P30-million loan from Quezon city, Ramawil reportedly tried to get another P30-million loan from Manila, using the same collateral.

But Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, upon checking with QC acting Mayor Stephen Sarino discovered that the titles were "fake" and Ramawil backed out. (BPT)

CSO: 4220

MORE RELIEF TEAMS DISPATCHED TO MINDANAO

Manila THE BULLETIN in English 6 Feb 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, in her capacity as chairman of the presidential committee for the rehabilitation and development of southern Philippines, directed yesterday State Minister Antonio R. Tupaz to send more medical teams to flood-ravaged Northeastern Mindanao on the heels of reports that 4,300 cases of gastro-enteritis, pulmonary diseases, respiratory diseases, and skin diseases have been tallied.

With the floods on their 49th day, and receding, fears were expressed that epidemics would afflict thousands uprooted from their homes and exposed to inclement weather.

Assemblyman Tupaz (KBL, Agusan del Norte) is the chief regional action officer for Region X, which has been placed under a state of calamity by presidential proclamation. He is also state minister for local governments and community development.

In her conference with Tupaz yesterday, the First Lady instructed him to enlist the services of all government agencies and ministries in an effort to stave off epidemics as well as to bring

to Construction company, the same contractor undertaking the Napindan hydraulic control structure about one kilometer downstream of the Pasig bridge in barangay Buting.

The projects, when fully operational, will protect hundreds of hectares of land, residential houses and business firms in Pasig and Marikina.

The proposed project and the ongoing P35-million Mangahan project, are meant to drain floodwaters from the Marikina and Pasig lowlands into the Manila bay through the Pasig river and Laguna lake through the Mangahan floodway, MPW officials said.

The Mangahan floodway, a reversible flood control scheme, will siphon off excess floodwaters from the Napindan hydraulic structure.

Studies of the project show that when the water level at the Laguna lake is high, floodwaters will be diverted to the Pasig river through the Mangahan channel and the Marikina river.

The project, when completed, will pave the way for the development of about 2,800 hectares of silted portion of the Laguna lakeshore areas near the floodway project. (IMR)

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